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Infight welcomes Peace Mission

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INFIGHT STATEMENT CONCERNING THE ARRIVAL OF THE LUSITANIA EXPRESSO

As the time approaches for the arrival in Dili, East Timor, of the Lusitania Expresso, on a peace mission as manifested in its passengers' aim to lay wreaths at the graves of the victims of the Dili 12 November massacre, the Indonesian government, in particular the military, has adopted a less than wise position. Such lack of wisdom is reflected in the government's claims that the Lusitania Expresso wishes to incite political provocation, and consequently, its entry into Indonesian waters will be refused.

Infight thus considers it necessary to respond to this matter as follows:

1. The peace movement reflects a trend of world solidarity in the field of human rights and democracy.

2. The peace movement involves non-violent action which sooner or later is to become a popular international political culture, and to substitute the violent militaristic methods in the resolution of political conflicts.

3. Indonesia must take a careful and wise stance in welcoming the era of the peace or non-violent movement, so as not to isolate itself in the context of current world concern for human rights.

4. The peace movement, be it in the form of the arrival of the Lusitania Expresso to lay wreaths or whatever form, should not be responded to in a reactionary (as exemplified by accusations of provocation), or militaristic way.

5. Moreover, the peace mission of the Expresso includes the involvement of peace activists from 21 countries, including Australia, Canada, Japan, Italy, Britain, the Netherlands, Portugal and the USA. This fact shows that the mission has been organised by international peace activists and not only by Portugal.

6. Indonesia should adopt a more responsible foreign policy which views the peace movement in a more favourable light, rather than continuing with its typically reactionary stance.

7. In the final analysis the will of the people in all its manifestations must be considered as the most valid form of political legitimacy in the formulation of policy.

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